

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00481 101148Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /094 W
-----055159 101159Z /21

P R 101117Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5953
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0481

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MOPS, SO
SUBJ: VERIFYING THE SOMALI ARMY WITHDRAWAL; SNA LOYALTY TO SIAD

1. EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTACHE COL. AHMED MOHMOUD ABDEL-HALIM SAID ON MARCH 9 THAT THE SOMALI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MOD) HAD NO IDEA OF THE STATE OF ITS WITHDRAWING UNITS AS OF THAT DATE. HALIM RECOUNTED HIS EXPERIENCES AT THE MOD ON THE 9TH WHERE HE SPENT THE MORNING. HE SAID HE WENT WITH SOME TREPIDATION, PREPARING TO SHARE WITH SYMPATHY THE FATE OF THE SOMALI ARMY WITH HIS FRIENDS IN THE MINISTRY WITH WHOM HE HAS BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT. HE FOUND NO MOOD OF GLOOM AT THE MINISTRY, BUT RATHER A SENSE OF BUSINESS AS USUAL. HE HAD THE CUSTOMARY SOFT DRINKS AND SMOKED WITH HIS FRIENDS WHO SEEMED TO TREAT THE DAY OF THE ORDER FOR THE SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OGADEN AS JUST ANOTHER WORKING DAT. THE STAFF OFFICERS, HALIM SAID, HAVE VIRTUALLY NO STRENGTH REPORTS ON RETREATING SNA UNITS. THEY DO NOT IN MANY CASES KNOW LOCATIONS, AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT, OR THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES OR PRISONERS UNITS HAVE INCURRED. HALIM ESTIMATED THAT IT WILL BE WEEKS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOGADI 00481 101148Z

BEFORE THE SNA HAS ANY REAL IDEA OF WHAT ASSETS SURVIVED AND WHERE THEY NOW ARE.

2. BY CONTRAST, HALIM REPORTED THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO SIGN OF OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT SIAD AMONG OFFICERS AT THE MINISTRY. VICE PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE MINISTER SAMANTAR WAS AT HIS DESK WORKING. (THE AMBASSADOR ALSO SAW HIM

AT THE PRESIDENCY ON MARCH 8.) OTHER OFFICERS REPORTED THEY KNEW THERE WERE STORIES AMONG DIPLOMATS OF PLOTTING AGAINST AND DISLOYALTY TOWARD SIAD. THESE OFFICERS CAUTIONED HALIM NOT TO BELIEVE SUCH RUMORS. THE ARMY IS ABSOLUTELY BEHIND THE PRESIDENT, THEY REPORTED.

3. COMMENT: THE APPARENT LACK OF STAFF WORK AT THE MINISTRY SUGGESTS HOW DIFFICULT IT IS GOING TO BE TO VERIFY THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SNA FROM THE OGADEN. AS HALIM HAS OFTEN COMMENTED, THE INFORMATION ONE WOULD EXPECT TO FIND IN A DEFENSE MINISTRY IS SIMPLY NOT THERE. IF THE SOMALIS THEMSELVES DO NOT KNOW WHERE THEIR MISSING TROOPS ARE, OTHERS ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY THE WITHDRAWAL ARE GOING TO FACE THE NECESSITY OF BEING SATISFIED WITH CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN FULL INFORMATION.
LOUGHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOGADI00481
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780107-1217
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780383/aaaacrzv.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 30a6acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3374231
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VERIFYING THE SOMALI ARMY WITHDRAWAL; SNA LOYALTY TO SIAD
TAGS: MOPS, MARR, SO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/30a6acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014